

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

**MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES**

Survey No. B-4606

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Ordinance Storehouse and Coal House

and/or common _____

2. Location

street & number Leahy Street, N. of Ft. McHenry National Monument & Historic Shrine Not for publication

city, town Baltimore vicinity of _____ congressional district _____

state Maryland county Baltimore City

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<u>district</u>	<u>x</u> public	<u>x</u> occupied	<u>agricultural</u>	<u>museum</u>
<u>x</u> building(s)	<u>private</u>	<u>unoccupied</u>	<u>commercial</u>	<u>park</u>
<u>structure</u>	<u>both</u>	<u>work in progress</u>	<u>educational</u>	<u>private residence</u>
<u>site</u>	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<u>entertainment</u>	<u>religious</u>
<u>object</u>	<u>in progress</u>	<u>yes: restricted</u>	<u>government</u>	<u>scientific</u>
	<u>being considered</u>	<u>yes: unrestricted</u>	<u>industrial</u>	<u>transportation</u>
	<u>x</u> not applicable	<u>x</u> no	<u>x</u> military	<u>other:</u>

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District

street & number 10 South Howard Street telephone no. 410-962-4545

city, town Baltimore state and zip code MD 21203

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. _____ liber _____

street & number _____ folio _____

city, town _____ state and zip code _____

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title _____

date _____ federal _____ state _____ county _____ local _____

depository for survey records _____

city, town _____ state _____

7. Description

Survey No. B-4606

<input type="radio"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	Check One <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	Check One <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

These two structures sit adjacent to one another on the edge of the Patapsco River, due north of Fort McHenry, Baltimore, Maryland. The buildings are both in relatively good condition, although the coal house does have some structural damage on the Northeast corner. Neither structure has had extensive restorative work done, but both have had some interior renovations.

The storehouse, constructed circa 1899, is located in the vicinity of the original portion of Fort McHenry, Baltimore, Maryland, off Leahy Street. The building, measuring 81 feet long by 32 feet deep, is located north of the Ft. McHenry star fort, about 150' from the edge of the Patapsco River. It is surrounded by a number of structures, including a modern one story structure to the northeast and a one story brick structure to the north which has been interpreted as a support building for this structure. The other two sides of the structure abut a paved driveway which leads to the main entrance road of the area. The structure is currently divided into two areas: one a large storage area encompassing the entire attic and two-thirds of the ground floor, and the other a small administrative office area, occupying about one third of the ground floor.

The storehouse, a rectangular, one-and-a-half story side gable structure, is roughly five bays long by two bays deep. The roof has a slope of approximately 40° and is covered in slate shingles. All of the walls of this structure are alternating 4:1 stretcher header bond and have a water table of rough cut corbelled dark gray stone extending 3 1/2' high. Iron ties are apparent both in the water table and between the main floor and the attic. There are no apparent alterations in the exterior walls of this structure, as the brickwork shows no evidence of such work. There is an overall high level of finish on this building, and many of the original doors and all of the original windows are intact.

The north facade of the storehouse is dominated by a pair of off-center double doors which appear to be original. The doors are non-functioning, however, as they are nearly four feet from the ground, and there are no stairs or platform leading up to them. The doors, which are unglazed wood frame are filled with diagonal panel wainscoting. There are three windows on this facade, all irregularly spaced. The windows are identical on all facades, and are six over six double hung sash, and have iron bars covering them. The window surrounds are minimal, but each has a brick sill, and each is topped with a segmental arch composed of three levels of rowlock-laid bricks. Decorative elements on the wall itself are limited to a heavy yet plain wooden cornice. As with the other sides of the structure, the stone water table extends approximately 3' 6" from the ground.

The east facade is currently used as the main entrance for the administrative area. The gable is decorated with rake moldings that abut cornice returns, extending about three feet beyond the corner. The facade is symmetrically laid out with a window and door on the ground floor, and two windows above them which provide light to the attic. The three windows configure to the others, but the door is a modern metal frame with a large glass insert. Below the window on the left is an air duct covered with a three-bar iron grate which leads to the crawl space. This is a rough opening in the stone water table to promote ventilation in the three foot space between the ground and the floor joists. There is a brick square chimney apparent at the peak of the roof, but the facade is flush.

The south facade is the primary loading side for the storage area. As with the north side, there are a pair of wooden double doors, and although these doors are new, they very closely replicate the original doors found on the north side, with the exception of not being painted white. The pair of doors have a small concrete loading dock which projects five feet out from the door and is eight feet long, as well as a set of four stairs on the right side. In addition to the pair of doors, there is another door to the right, as well as three windows. The single door leads to the administrative area, and has a set of four concrete stairs leading up to it.

The west facade has four windows, two on the ground floor, and two in the attic, which resemble the other windows of the structure. There are two iron-grate air ducts, similar to the one on the east facade, which provide ventilation for the crawlspace. Decorative elements include the same rake moldings and cornice returns as found on the east facade.

The interior of the structure is divided into two main rooms: a storage room, measuring roughly 59' x 30' and an administrative office space, measuring 19' x 30'. (Attachment A) The storage area takes up the entire attic space. There are indications of original partitions in the attic and ground floor as evident by original floor paint and a slight scarring of the wood, but no partitions can be positively identified as being original except for the more substantial division of the two rooms to the right of the stairs, part of which was destroyed during renovations. Interior alterations include the renovation of the office space and the addition of a bathroom to the office space which protrudes slightly into the storage area. More notable than the plan or detail of the structure is the original, still-working manual freight elevator located in the main storage room.

(Continued)

8. Significance

Survey No. B-4606

Period	Areas of Significance--Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archaeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archaeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1887, 1899

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☒ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The two brick structures located north of the Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine are significant as they are the only remaining structures from the post-Civil War coastal defense mission of the installation. Documentation on the Coal house in archival records and maps is almost non-existent; rather, the Ordnance Storehouse was the structure which was identified on more maps, possibly due to its higher level of exterior finish.

Originally built circa 1899 an Ordnance Storehouse, the primary structure has been an important support building to the Fort McHenry star fort complex, allowing it to successfully complete missions as varied as coastal defense to a veterans hospital until it was transferred to the care of the National Park Service in 1933. Today, the building is the property of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers who use it as administrative space and as a storage facility. The structure is sound and there have been no restorative actions.

The structure was originally constructed to house unused Civil War ordnance which was recalled by the War Department in 1895. There were no archival records in the Quartermaster General's Correspondence Files at the National Archives concerning a new Ordnance house in the late nineteenth century, and no plans were located in the architectural section. Construction drawings of the structure dated 1899 are on file at Fort McHenry, which describe the structure as an Ordnance Storehouse. These elevation drawings do not specify that the structure is at Fort. McHenry, and could simply be a redraw of Quartermaster General plans.

The first positive identification of the structures was in the 1901 Adjutant General Report on Sites for Military Posts, in which a number of installations were described in detail. This document lists the structures, a brief description, the current use, and date of construction. The Ordnance Storehouse was not again positively identified in historic records until 1914 when it appeared on a Sanborne Fire Insurance Map. The structure is identified as a one-story brick structure, labeled "Guard HQ" but the coal house was not identified.

In 1917, Fort McHenry began its mission as World War I U.S. Army General Hospital No. 2, and the function of the Ordnance storehouse was changed to a medical storehouse, while the coal shed was used as a garage. (Attachment D) There are countless maps indicating the location and use of the structures, but no textural or photographic evidence. The fort and grounds at this time was covered with over one hundred buildings, most being purpose built wood frame structures, none of which have existed.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Survey No. B-4606

Brown, Sharon A.. *Historic Structures Report: Administrative, Historical and Architectural Data Sections, Seawall. Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine, Maryland..* Washington DC: Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1986

Sheads, Scott S. *Fort McHenry.* Baltimore: Nautical & Aviation Publishing Company of America, 1995.

Sheads, Scott S. Personal Interview with Mark Baker,
The Trouble Buster. v. 1-2; 27 April 1918-24 April 1920.

(Continued)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property

Quadrangle name

Quadrangle Scale

UTM References do NOT complete UTM reference

A | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
Zone Easting Northing

B | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
 Zone Easting Northing

C | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

D | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

E | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

F | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

G | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

H | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Verbal boundary description and justification

Structures are located due north of Ft Mconry National Monument and Historic Shrine, Baltimore, immediately outside of the property fence on the Patapsco River.

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list all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries
state Maryland code county Baltimore code

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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Katherine Basye / Historian
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organization US Army Corps of Engineers, Planning Division **date** 12 September, 1996

street & number 10 South Howard Street telephone 410-962-4939

city or town Baltimore state Maryland

The Maryland Historical Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being processed for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights

Return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCP/DCHD
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
(410) 514-7600

Continued Description:

The main storage area of the structure, occupying 80% of the space, has an extremely low level of finish. The ceiling is not finished, and the structural supports are visible, including three rows of cross bracing running lengthwise through the building. This was done possibly to support the weight of stored items in the attic. Also seen in the ceiling framing is the mortise and tenon joints used to block the opening for the freight elevator. This type of jointing is very difficult to retrofit, and further confirms the original installation of the elevator.

There is no variance in brick pattern from 4:1 common bond, even above the windows or doors, despite the segmented arches above them on the exterior. The walls, with the exception of the east partition wall, are exposed brick that were formerly whitewashed, and later painted. There are four unpainted rectangles from the floor measuring approximately six feet high and three feet wide, indicating bookshelves or similar objects may have stood against the wall and door. The edges of these rectangles reveal two layers of paint--a thin white layer and a newer, heavier creme layer. These layers are repeated on all brick walls.

The east partition wall is covered with a dark gray vertical bead board paneling. There is a door in this partition located before the stairs which opens into the administrative area, but is currently blocked from the other side. Underneath the stairs, the paneling is substituted for shelving, most likely which was not original.

Towards the center of the room is the hardware and tracks for the manual freight elevator. The two piers, each approximately 15 feet high, support the tracks and are covered with the same beaded board paneling found on the partition laid horizontally. Surrounding the one-foot deep recess is a fence-like structure which swings up on the north and south sides to allow for easy loading and unloading. The elevator itself is a wooden platform that is held with iron and wood braces, connecting it to a three foot long 5" x 8" beam holding the hoisting cable. The beam is fitted with a plaque reading "Snowden and Cowman, Baltimore, MD." The pulley system and counterweights are located in the attic. There is one large, nearly four foot diameter wheel on which the pull rope is wound and the counterweights are held. On the opposite side of the opening is a gear cog which controls the hoist cable. The beams that hold these elements are attached to the rafters in the ceiling. There is a fence-like barrier with two gates surrounding the opening identical to the railings on the ground floor.

Elsewhere in the attic are lines of original floor paint which show the original location of two rows of storage bins against the walls. There were ten bins of various sizes down each side, measuring from 7'5" to 8'0" long. There are six modern storage bins constructed out of lumber and metal screen which are in location of the original bins, but do not line up to the markings. The original bins were separated by the struts, part of the rafter framing system. The irregularity in the bin size can be attributed to the irregular placement of the struts.

The overall principle construction details of the roof are a variation of a queen-post truss. (Attachment B) In the McHenry building, the posts are slightly splayed inward at the base, and there is the addition to a row of struts along the roof-wall juncture. These struts run from the rafters and extend through the floor to the joists in the ceiling below. In addition to the struts, there are triangular braces of a modern vintage installed down the length of the top plate on both sides. These were perhaps installed to provide extra support for the slate roof, just as the struts may have been added to strengthen the earlier construction.

The Adjacent garage buildings at this site is a one story, shed roof brick building with wood framing. The structure, dating circa 1890, has been interpreted as a support structure for Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine, and measures 104 ft. x 40 ft. (Attachment C)

The structure is composed of four roughly identical garage bays, each having an overhead door on the south facade. The north facade is identified by four windows, all of which have been covered over. The opening on the northeast corner is the only opening which has been partially bricked-in, as it was a door which was later turned into a window. The east and west sides have no openings and no distinguishable features.

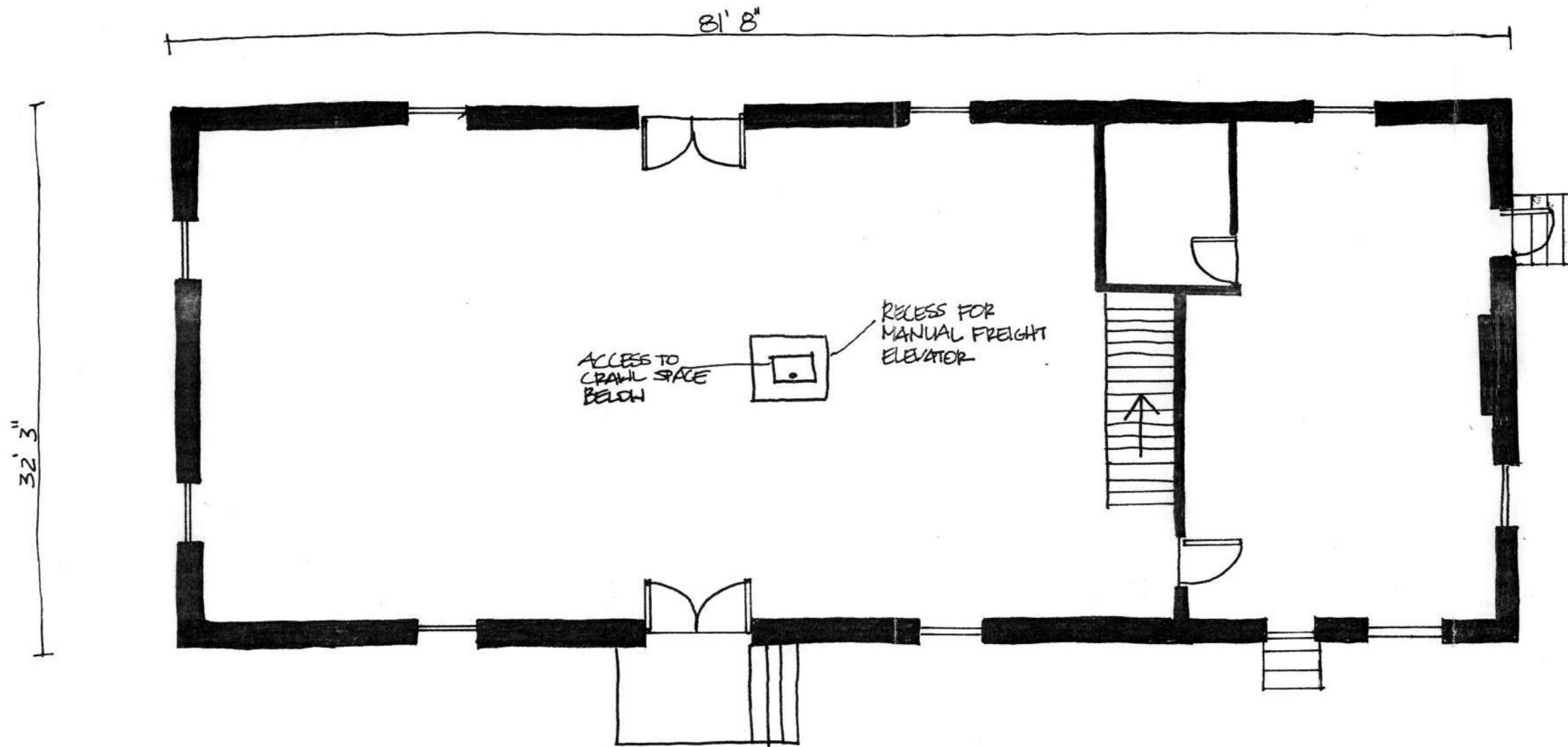
The interior of the structure is divided into four identical bays, measuring roughly 34 ft. wide by 37 ft. deep. The bays appear to have the original brick dividing walls, but it is unknown if any of the four bays were further subdivided with wooden partitions. Currently, one of the bays has been divided, but there is no evidence on ceiling beams that this follows a historical precedent. The bays on the corners show wooden framing which helped to support the wood paneling on the south facade above the doors. Floors in the structure are concrete, but are of a modern vintage. Overall, the structure has an extremely low level of finish.

Continued References:

United States National Park Service.. *Master Plan of Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine, Maryland*, 1969. Washington DC: Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1969.

United States Army, Adjunct General Report, *Sites for Military Posts, Volume I*. Washington DC, 1901

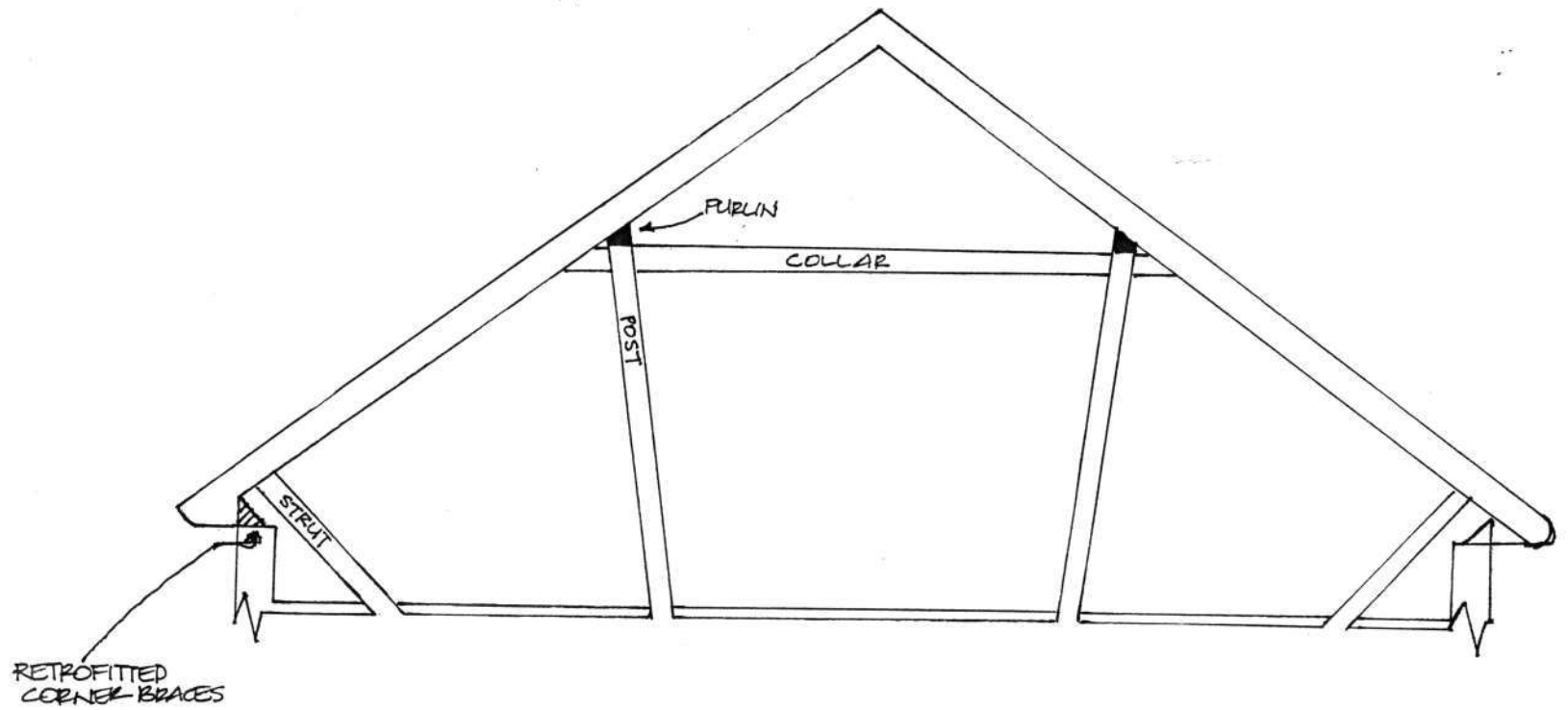
B-4606



EXTERIOR WALLS = 1.2' THICK

ORDNANCE STOREHOUSE, FT. MCHENRY, MD
SCALE - 1:1/8"
K. BASYE 08.14.96

ATTACHMENT A



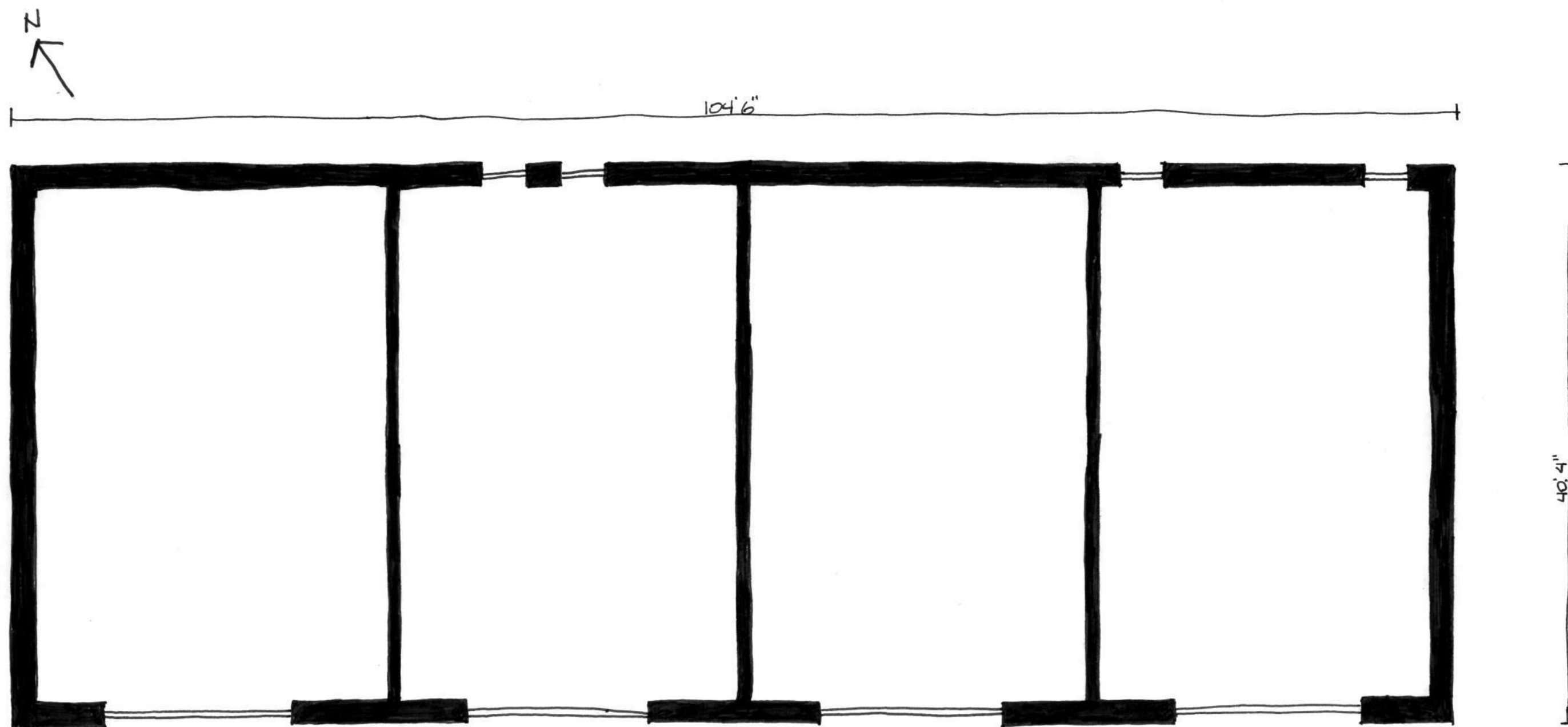
DETAIL OF ROOF FRAMING
 ORDNANCE STOREHOUSE, FT. MCHENRY, MD
 - NOT TO SCALE -

K. BASTE 8.14.96

ATTACHMENT B

B-4606

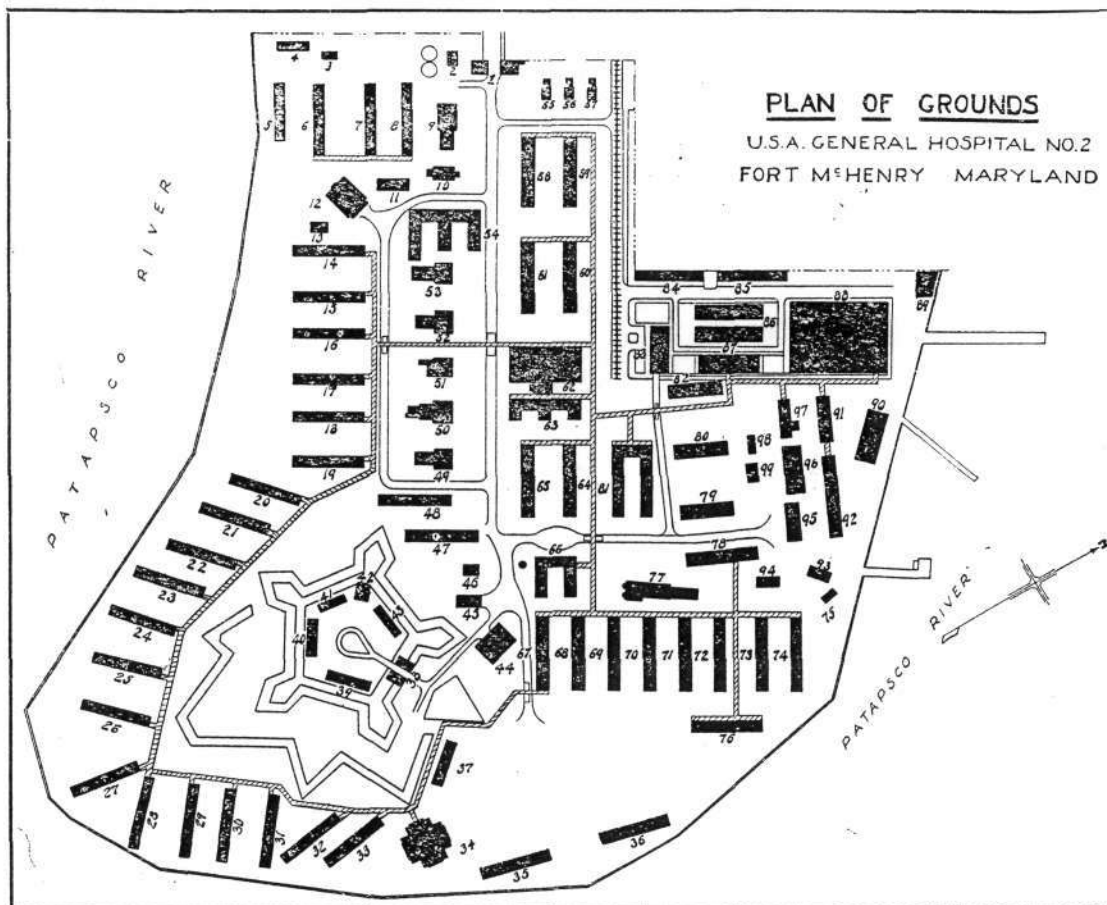
B-4606



EXTERIOR WALLS - 1.5' THICK
4 OVERHEAD DOORS ON SOUTH FACADE

STOREHOUSE, FT. MCHENRY, MARYLAND
SCALE - 1:1/8"
K. BASTY 08.14.96

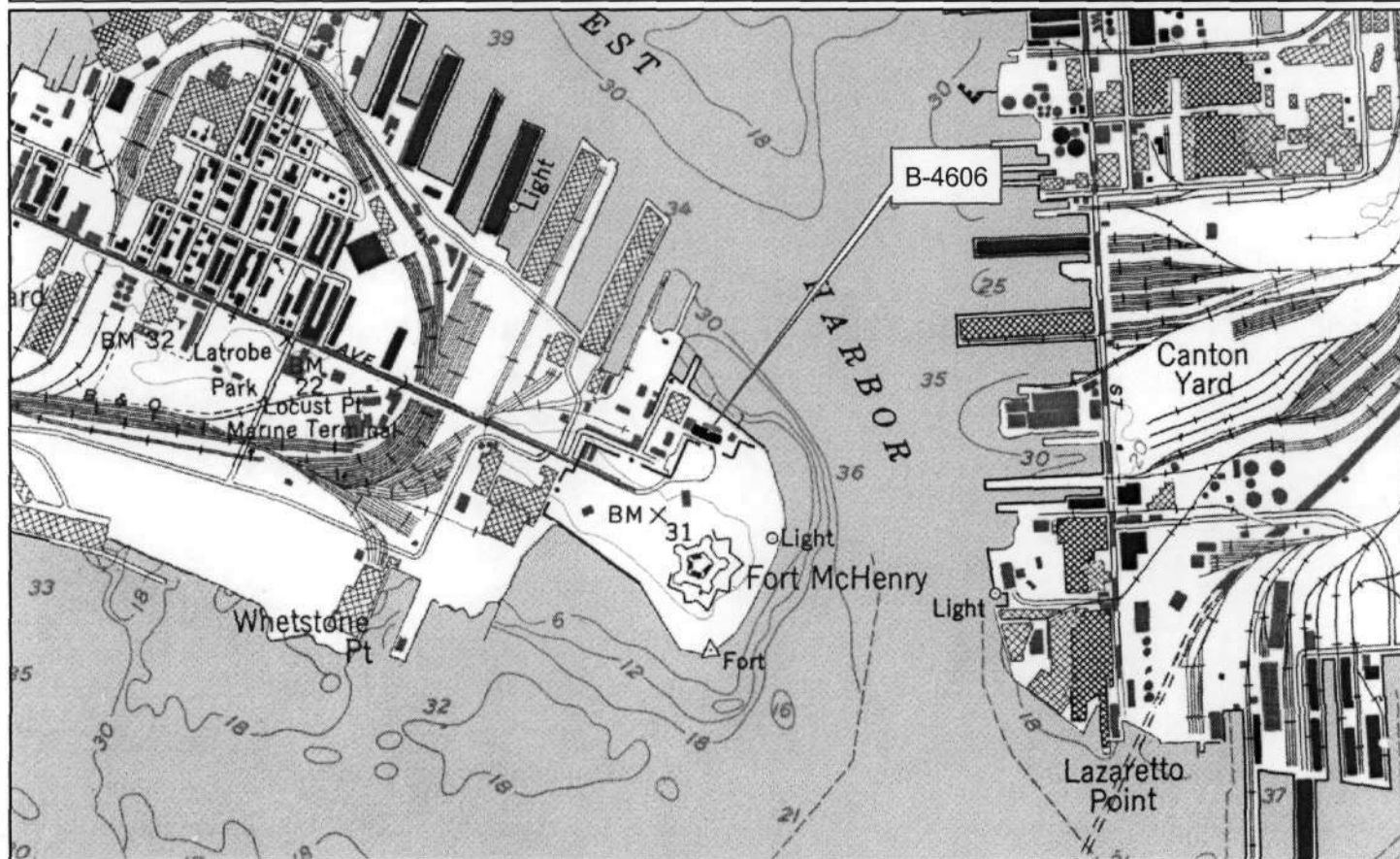
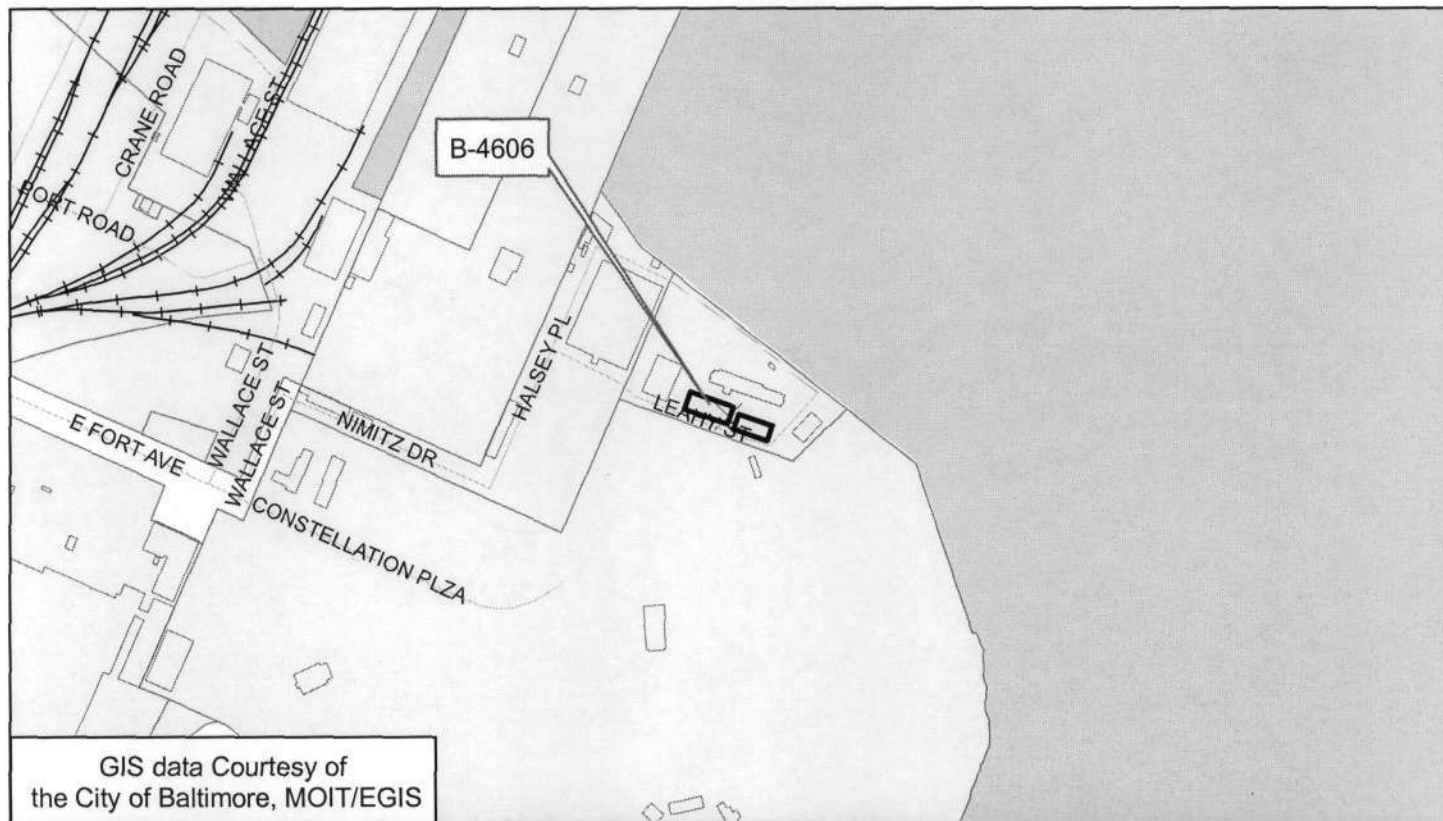
ATTACHMENT C

**KEY: Try It and See If It Fits**

1 Guard-house	34 Red Cross House	67 Ward 10
2 Pumping Station	35 Barracks 5	68 Ward 11
3 Morgue	36 Barracks 4	69 Ward 12
4 Stables	37 Garage	70 Ward 13
5 Warehouse	38 Entrance to Star Fort	71 Ward 14
6 Nurses' Quarters	39 Plumbing Shop	72 Ward 15
7 Nurses' Quarters	40 Q.M. Barracks	73 Ward 16
8 Nurses' Quarters	41 Bakery	74 Ward 17
9 Officers' Ward	42 Magazine	75 Scales
10 Chapel	43 Warehouse	76 Ward 18 (Isolation)
12 Magazine	44 Y. M. C. A. Hut	77 Post Exchange
13 Sergeant-Major's House	45 Fire House	78 Ward 19 (Psychiatric)
14 Ward 29	46 Post Office	79 Barracks 3
15 Ward 30	47 Bachelor Officers' Quarters	80 Barracks 2
16 Ward 31	48 Officers' Mess	81 Physio-therapy Building
17 Ward 32	49 Officers' Quarters	82 Barracks 1
18 Ward 33	50 Officers' Quarters	83 Administration Building
19 Ward 34	51 Residence of C. O.	84 Medical Supply
20 Ward 35	52 Officers' Quarters	85 Medical Supply
21 Ward 36	53 Officers' Quarters	86 Educational Buildings
22 Ward 37	54 Nurses' Home	87 Surgical Building
23 Ward 38	55 Officers' Quarters	88 Immigration Building
24 Ward 39	56 Aides' Quarters	89 Power House
25 Ward 40	57 Aides' Quarters	90 Power House
26 Ward 41	58 Ward 2	91 Educational Shops
27 Ward 42	59 Ward 3	92 Educational Shops
28 Ward 43	60 Ward 4	93 Orthopedic Shop
29 Ward 44	61 Ward 5	94 Office Light Fatigue
30 Ward 45	62 Mess Hall	95 Warehouse
31 Ward 46	63 Mess Kitchen	96 Garage
32 Ward 47	64 Ward 7	97 Laboratory
33 Ward 48	65 Ward 8	98 Latrine
	66 Receiving Ward	99 Latrine

ATTACHMENT D

B-4606
Ordinance Storehouse and Coal House
Leahy Street, N. of Ft. McHenry National Monument & Historic Shrine
Block 2058A Lot 003
Baltimore City
Baltimore East Quad.





B-4606

· ORDINANCE STOREHOUSE

· BALTIMORE CITY, MD

· KATHERINE BASTE

· 13 AUGUST 1996

· US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, BALTIMORE DISTRICT
10 S. HOWARD ST., BALTIMORE

· NORTH FACADE

1/8



B-4606

- ORDINANCE STOREHOUSE
- BALTIMORE CITY, MD
- KATHERINE BASYE
- 13 AUGUST 1996
- US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, BALTIMORE DISTRICT
10 S. HOWARD ST, BALTIMORE
- SOUTH FACADE
- 2/8



B-4606

- ORDINANCE STOREHOUSE
- BALTIMORE CITY, MD
- KATHERINE BASYE
- 13 AUGUST 1996
- US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, BALTIMORE DISTRICT
10 S. HOWARD ST, BALTIMORE
- EAST FACADE
- 3/8



B. 4606

ORDINANCE STOREHOUSE

BALTIMORE CITY, MD

KATHERINE BASTE

13 AUGUST 1996

US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, BALTIMORE DISTRICT
10 S. HOWARD ST., BALTIMORE

WEST FACADE

4/8



B-4606

ORDINANCE STOREHOUSE

BALTIMORE CITY, MD

KATHERINE BASYE

13 AUGUST 1996

US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, BALTIMORE DISTRICT

10 S. HOWARD ST, BALTIMORE

DETAIL OF ORIGINAL DOORS, N. FACADE

5/8

NO
SMOKING



datasonics

B-4606

ORDINANCE STOREHOUSE

BALTIMORE CITY, MD

KATHERINE BASTIE

13 AUGUST 1996

US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, BALTIMORE DISTRICT

10. S. HOWARD ST., BALTIMORE

MANUEL FREIGHT ELEVATOR

6/8



COAL HOUSE B-4606

BALTIMORE CITY, MD

KATHERINE BASTE

13 AUGUST 1996

US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, BALTIMORE DISTRICT
105. HOWARD ST, BALTIMORE

SOUTH FACADE

7/8



B. 4606

COAL HOUSE

BALTIMORE CITY, MD

KATHERINE BASTY

13 AUGUST 1996

US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, BALTIMORE DISTRICT

10. S. HOWARD ST, BALTIMORE

NORTH FACADE

8/8